

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07545 01 OF 02 051749Z
ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 07545

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: LABOR VISIT - LABOR DESK OF U.S. YOUTH COUNCIL

REF: A. STATE 114057; B. MADRID 5828

1. SUMMARY. THE JUNE 25-30 VISIT TO SPAIN OF THE LABOR DESK ELEMENT OF THE U.S. YOUTH COUNCIL TURNED OUT TO BE A MOST WORTHWHILE EXERCISE. PROGRAMS IN BOTH SEVILLA AND MADRID EXPOSED THE GROUP TO A BROAD RANGE OF TRADE UNION, POLITICAL, GOVERNMENT AND OTHER CONTACTS. THE IDEA OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FOR YOUNGER LABOR LEADERS WAS WELL-RECEIVED BY THE SPANIARDS, AND SUCH A PROGRAM COULD FIT IN VERY WELL WITH EFFORTS FOR A STEPPED-UP LABOR PROGRAM IN SPAIN. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE LABOR DESK AS PLANS FOR A POSSIBLE SPANISH PROGRAM DEVELOP. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SEVILLE, THE LABOR DESK TEAM (DAVID N. DORN, DIRECTOR, LABOR DESK; ROY GODSON, INTERNATIONAL LABOR PROGRAM, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY; AND RACHELLE HOROWITZ, ASSISTANT TO AFT PRESIDENT SHANKER) MET WITH UCD PROVINCIAL SECRETARY CARMEN LLOPART AND SEVERAL OTHER
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PAGE 02 MADRID 07545 01 OF 02 051749Z

LOCAL GOVT PARTY MEMBERS, AS WELL AS WITH THE MINISTRY OF LABOR'S PROVINCIAL LABOR DELEGATE, MIGUEL MORENO. A LUNCHEON ARRANGED BY CONSUL GENERAL ROBERT FOUCHE GATHERED A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF SOCIALIST (PSOE) AND UGT PROVINCIAL LEADERS INCLUDING RAFAEL ESCUREDO (PSOE DEPUTY FROM SEVILLE AND SECRETARY OF THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES), MANUEL DEL VALLE (LABOR LAWYER, SECRETARY OF

PRESIDENCIA OF JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA, FORMER IVP GRANTEE), JOSE RODRIGUEZ (PSOE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR ANDALUCIA), AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UGT SEVILLE. LABATT ALSO PRESENT FOR SEVILLE PROGRAM ARRANGED BY AMCONGEN SEVILLE.

3. THE MADRID PROGRAM (ARRANGED BY LABATT) TURNED OUT TO BE A VERY FULL ONE INDEED. ON THE TRADE UNION SIDE, THEY MET WITH (A) UGT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY MANUEL SIMON, PRESS AND INFORMATION SECRETARY ELENA VAZQUEZ, EDUCATION SECRETARY JOSE VALENTIN, AND UGT CATALUNYA EDUCATION SECRETARY GUIZA), (B) CARLOS PARDO (IMF REPR FOR SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, ALSO UGT), (C) ALEX AGUIRREZABAL (BASQUE STV INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY), AND (D) FETE (UGT'S TEACHERS UNION) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (EDUCATION SECRETARY ADELA KOPP AND ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY JULIA VEGRE). THAT CONTACT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR MS. HOROWITZ (WHO, INCIDENTALLY, WAS AN EXCELLENT SUBSTITUTE TEAM MEMBER), FOR WE ARE SENDING TWO TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES (ONE FETE, ONE BASQUE STV) AS IVP GRANTEES TO THE AFT CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON THIS AUGUST (USICA 13736 AND MADRID 7076).

4. POLITICAL PARTY CONTACTS INCLUDED AN APPOINTMENT WITH ARTURO MOYA OF THE UCD (DEPUTY FROM GRANADA; UNDER-SECRETARY/SECOND VICE PRESIDENCY; AND PROMOTER OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 07545 01 OF 02 051749Z

PROPOSED UCD FOUNDATION FOR LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS) WHO IS OFF TO THE U.S. ON JULY 10 AS AN IVP GRANTEE (MADRID 7340) AND A MOST USEFUL MEETING AT PSOE PARTY HEADQUARTERS WITH SOME LABOR-ORIENTED SOCIALIST DEPUTIES: EDUARDO LOPEZ (VP OF LABOR COMMITTEE; PSOE LABOR SECRETARY; DEPUTY FROM VIZCAYA), MAXIMO RODRIGUEZ (SECRETARY OF LABOR COMMITTEE; MADRID), ENRIQUE BARON (MADRID), AND JUAN BARRANCO (MADRID). ON GOVT SIDE, THE LABOR DESK TEAM HAD GOOD MEETINGS AT THE MINISTRY OF LABOR (INCLUDING PEDRO LUIS GOMIS, THE LABOR MINISTER'S JEFE DE GABINETE) AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (PABLO BARRIOS, CULTURAL RELATIONS). THE GROUP ALSO MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WEST GERMAN FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG (SPONSORS OF THE UGT'S LARGO CABALLERO LABOR EDUCATION INSTITUTE) AND WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LABOR JOURNALISTS (APIL), JOSE MANUEL ARIJA ("CAMBIO 16"). FINALLY, ON THE EMBASSY SIDE, THE TEAM MET WITH THE ACTING DCM, THE ASSISTANT CULTURAL OFFICER, AND WAS BRIEFED BY THE LABATT.

5. THE IDEA OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FOR YOUNGER LABOR LEADERS WAS WELL-RECEIVED BY SPANIARDS FROM THE DIFFERENT SECTORS CONTACTED, AND THE TEAM IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR ITS

SERIOUS AND LOW-KEY APPROACH. SUCH A PROGRAM, IF IT MATERIALIZES, COULD FIT IN VERY WELL WITH EFFORTS FOR A STEPPED-UP LABOR PROGRAM IN SPAIN (USICA 8821). ACCORDING TO DAVID DORN, HE NOW VISUALIZES A SCENARIO WHICH WOULD FIRST BRING A SIX-MAN GROUP OF YOUNG AMERICAN TRADE UNION LEADERS (INCLUDING SOME SPANISH SPEAKERS) TO SPAIN PERHAPS IN EARLY SPRING 1979, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A RETURN VISIT TO THE U.S. BY A SIX-MAN UGT/BASQUE STV GROUP AND PERHAPS ALSO A SIX-MAN UGT/BASQUE STV METALWORKERS GROUP. THE EMBASSY IS STRONGLY OF THE OPINION THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF YOUNGER LABOR LEADERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, AND WE

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07545 02 OF 02 051748Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 07545

FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT ART HUGHES (EUR/WE), DAN GOOTT (LABOR ADVISER, EUR), AND ED MCHALE (LABOR ADVISER, ICA) KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE LABOR DESK OF THE U.S. YOUTH COUNCIL AS PLANS FOR THE SPANISH PROGRAM DEVELOP. EATON

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